

Japan's stickiness to Coal-fired Power Generation and Japan's Superficial Implementation of SDGs for Transformation

OHASHI, Masaaki
Univ. of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo, JAPAN and
Co-Chair of Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs
on July 11, 2020

Personal Profile – OHASHI Masaaki (大橋正明)

Present	Professor (NGO Studies & South Asian Studies), University of the Sacred Heart 聖心女子大学教授、Tokyo, Japan
	Visiting Professor (NPO Management), Open Univ. of Japan (OUJ) 放送大学客員教授
	Board member (ex-Chair), <u>Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC)</u> 国際協力NGOセンター
	<u>Co-Chair, Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs SDGs市民社会ネットワーク</u>
	Treasurer, SHAPLA NEER = Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Supports シャプラニール=市民による海外協力の会監事
	Board member, Japan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (JVOAD)
	Co-Chair, Japan CSO Coalition for Disaster Risk Reduction(JCC=DRR)
	Board Member, AYUS Buddhist Network for International Cooperation アーユス仏教国際協力ネットワーク
	Treasurer, COMET (Social Welfare Cooperation for the mentally impaired) 社会福祉法人コメット監事
	Board Member of Japan Association for International Development Studies(JASID), 国際開発学会
93~14	Professor, Keisen University 恵泉女学園大学教授 (currently Emirates Professor)
'90-'93	Deputy Head of Delegation / Development Delegate in Bangladesh, International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC 国際赤十字·赤新月社連盟) & Japanese Red Cross Society(日本赤十字社)
'88-'90	Graduate Student of International Agriculture & Rural Development, Cornel University (USA)
'82-'87	Secretary General, SHAPLA NEER (Tokyo, JAPAN)
'80-'82	Field Director for Bangladesh, SHAPLA NEER=Citizens' Committee in Japan for Overseas Cooperation
'79-'80	Indian Govt. Scholarship Student for Hindi Language, Advanced Diploma Course, Central Institute of Hindi (Delhi, India)
72~78	Undergrad. Student of Waseda University (Economics) in Tokyo 早稲田大学政治経済学部

Fukushima still in Evacuation

• At the end of 2018, 43,214 people (2.3% of Fukushima population) are still evacuation in and outside of the Fukushima Prefecture due to the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Station Disaster in 2011.

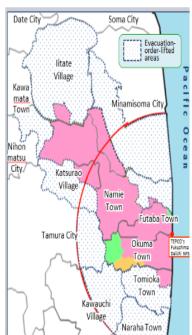
- GOJ used to argue that after decontamination, local residents can return to homes. Now says even without decontamination, they can.
- Actually not decontaminating, but only shifting it to other places.
- Still the Red Areas are highly contaminated and not habitable for decades or more.
- GOJ and TEPCO have stopped their livelihood and rent_assistance to evacuees outside Fukushima.



2015,9,05



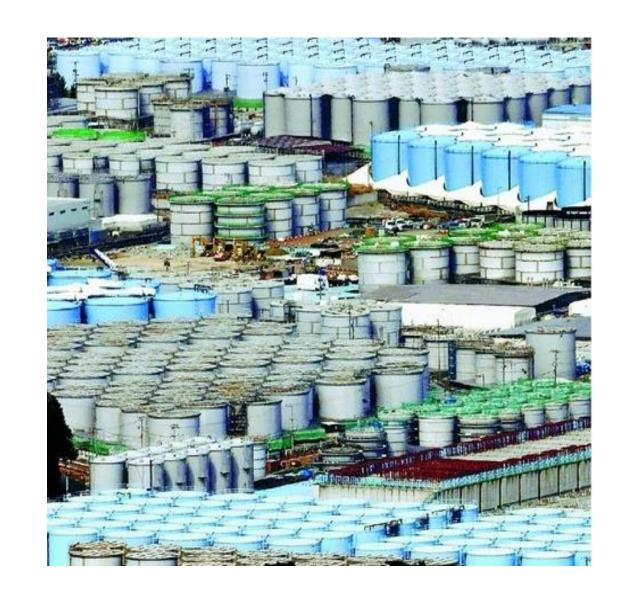






TEPCO may discharge Radio-active water to sea

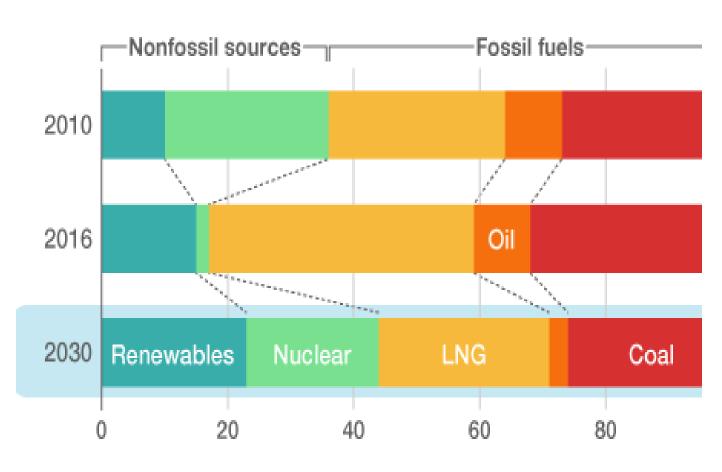
- TEPCO urges "Dumping water laced with tritium poses no safety hazard"
- In April 2020, 1.2 million tons of radioactive water produced in the aftermath of the disaster is in storage tanks in the Fukushima No.1 Power Station.
- Technically no way to remove the Tritium.
- Groundwater flowing in reactors + reactor cooling water are increasing day by day, and tanked.
- Of course, many people, fishing industries and marine industries are strongly opposing to the plan.



GOJ's 2018 Energy Mix Policy

- GOJ likes to maintain the Energy Mix Policy; Renewables, Nuclear, LNG, Oil and Coal.
- In 2030, Japan's energy will be 20% to 22% nuclear power, 22% to 24% renewable energy, and 56% thermal (fossil fuel) power.
- After the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Station Disaster in 2011, people in Japan prefer to stop all nuclear energy generation, while GOJ has been trying to resume nuclear stations by strengthening safety regulations.
- GOJ has recently reduced the purchasing prices of electricity from small renewable energy producers, thus reducing its growth speed.

pan's Energy Mix



npiled by Nippon.com based on material from the Agency Natural Resources and Energy.



GOJ keeps coal-fired plants and its emission goal.

- GOJ(METI) recently announced to shut down 71 %(of 140 low-efficiency coalfired thermal power plants) w/i 10 years,
- But GOJ keeps high-efficiency ones operating and some new ones constructed in & outside of Japan, such as in Tokyo Bay and in Bangladesh.
- France shut down all call plants by 20, UK by 25 and German by 38,
- GOJ will not change its goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, a decision that calls more int'l condemnation that Japan is not doing enough to deal with climate change.



Nuclear Electricity and CO2/Climate Justice

- GOJ may excuse that as 100 Coal Plant would be scrapped, Nuclear Electricity must be expanded to secure electricity reducing CO2 Emission.
- From our experience in Fukushima, Nuclear Electricity seriously damages environment and human and is extremely expensive especially if a serious accident take place.
- No nuclear waste management system existing.
- Nuclear Electricity is unsustainable.
- We should reduce domestic electricity consumption while increase clean one in needy countires/areas.
- UN's SDGs does not touch Nuclear Electricity.



Greta Thunberg says,

Personally I am against nuclear power, but according to the IPCC, it can be a small part of a very big new carbon free energy solution, especially in countries and areas that lack the possibility of a full scale renewable energy supply (The rest omitted).

SDGs as Universal Goals: Pros & Cons

Sustainable Development Goals 4 QUALITY EDUCATION 5 GENDER EQUALITY 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Pros.

- a. No One Left Behind
- b. End poverty
- c. Inequality
- d. Migrants
- e. Call for Transformation

Cons

- 1) No cause of Unsustainability
- 2) Not useful for refugees
- 3) Contradictions w/i SDGs
- 4) No mention how to transform

The SDGs Promotion Headquarters

Chief of Headquarters: Prime Minister

Deputy chief: Chief Cabinet Secretary,

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Members of Headquarters: All other Ministers of State

Administrative Meetings

Chairperson: Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary

(foreign affairs)

Acting Chair: Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary

(domestic affairs)

Deputy Chairperson: Assistant Vice-Minister for Global Issues/

Director-General for Global Issues,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Members: Representatives of

other relevant government agencies

The SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meetings

NGOs/NPOs Academia Private Sector International Organizations Various Organizations

Ministry of Environment Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry of Finance Ministry of Justice Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Reconstruction Agency Consumer Affairs Agency Financial Services Agency Financial Services Agency Cabinet Office Cabinet Secretariat

GOJ's Structure for SDGs

1. SDGs Promotion Headquarters

The SDGs Promotion Headquarters (SDGs HQ) at the Prime Minister's Office established in May 2016. The SDGs HQ holds its main meeting twice a year, presided over by the Prime minister, assisted by the Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of Foreign Affairs as vice Chairs, and attended by all other Cabinet members.

2. SDGs Promotion Round Table Meeting in the HQ To ensure the multi-stakeholder partnerships mentioned in SDGs, the SDGs Promotion Round Table Meeting (Roundtable) was set up in Sept. 2016 in the SDGs HQ. This includes 4 academicians, 4 from CSOs, 2 from the business sector, 2 from UN organizations, 1 each from the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), and the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF). This meeting take place, in principle, twice a year only for 2 hours each, prior to the HQ's semi-annual main meeting.

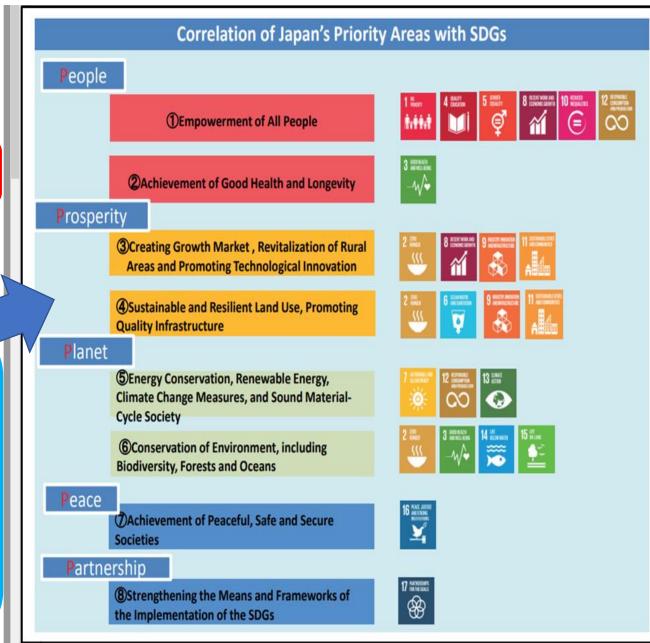
GOJ's SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles Revised Ver.

2. The Latest Development

- (1) Efforts so far: the SDGs Promotion Headquarters (Established May 2016), the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles (Decided Dec. 2016), and the SDGs Action Plan (Decided every 6 months since Dec. 2017)
- (2) Promoting Japan's SDGs model based on the concept of human security,
 - ① Business and Innovation, ② "Localization of SDGs", ③ "Empowerment of the Next Generation and Women."
- (3) The UN expressed the sense of crisis at the SDG Summit in 2019. The 2018 report by the Bertelesmann Foundation of Germany gave Japan higher ratings for achieving SDG4 (Quality Education) and 9 (Innovation), but lower for **SDG5** (**Gender Equality**).

3. Priorities

- Realization of gender equality and a society where every person can play an active role
- 2 Achievement of good health and longevity
- (Prosperity) 3 Creating growth markets, revitalization of rural areas, and promoting science technology and innovation 4 Sustainable and resilient land use, promoting quality infrastructure
- (Planet)
- 5 Energy conservation and renewable energy, disaster risk reduction and climate change countermeasures, sound material-cycle society
- 6 Conservation of biodiversity, forests, and oceans, and other environments
- (Peace) Achieving peaceful, safe and secure societies
- (Rartnership) 8 Strengthening the means and frameworks for the implementation of the SDGs



Major Characteristics of the GOJ's SDGs Implementation and Need of Civil Society

- 1. Administration Centered Implementation: mainly administrative organs are working, although the 2030 Agenda calls essential roles of national parliaments for SDGs. The SDGs HQ locates at Prime Minister's Office, most work is carried out by the MOFA.
- 2. Cherry Picking: Influential ministries interpreted the SDGs as a useful tool for their original missions, especially to promote business and technical innovation, regional revitalization and so on. Most of these are more for economic development and less for social development. As a result, the Principles, its revised one, and annual Action Plans of SDGs seem cherry-picked by those ministries.
- 3. Conservative Thoughts: The GOJ seems to utilize SDGs as a good chance to boost Japan up again, in terms of its economy, technology, regional and/or global influence in the face of a growing neighboring country. These nationalistic and conservative thoughts of the GOJ blocked the inclusion of Poverty in its priority list.
- 4. Need of Advocacy by Civil Society: SDGs is not a binding agreement. The SDGs themselves allow national government flexibility to set its own goals and adopt different approaches. In other words, a government can intentionally or unintentionally interpret, if not distort, SDGs according to its convenience. This is the very reason that NGOs and CSOs should play the role of watchdogs, advocating the implementation of the SDGs.

